

In the Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) An arrangement for monitoring the
2 status of and controlling the functions of aircraft cabin
3 systems selected from a cabin information system, a cabin
4 audio system, a cabin video system, a cabin lighting
5 system, a cabin air conditioning system, a cabin smoke
6 detector system, an aircraft door monitoring system, and a
7 water supply and wastewater system, wherein:

8 ~~wherein~~ said arrangement comprises a user interface
9 panel comprising a liquid crystal display screen and a
10 touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed at
11 least partly over said display screen,

12 ~~wherein~~ said user interface panel includes a basic
13 layout including a general display area of said display
14 screen and a plurality of touch input keys respectively
15 labeled with system or function identifying symbols,

16 ~~wherein~~ said arrangement further comprises a first
17 system menu associated with a first one of said cabin
18 systems and a second system menu associated with a second
19 one of said cabin systems,

20 ~~wherein~~ said first system menu can be selectively
21 displayed on said general display area whereby said first
22 system menu shows status information and operating
23 functions of said first cabin system and allows a user to
24 select and control said operating functions of said first
25 cabin system via said touch sensitive surface input
26 arrangement, **[[and]]**

27 wherein said second system menu can be selectively
28 displayed on said general display area whereby said second
29 system menu shows status information and operating
30 functions of said second cabin system and allows a user to
31 select and control said operating functions of said second
32 cabin system via said touch sensitive surface input
33 arrangement, arrangement, and

34 said arrangement further comprises a main menu that
35 can be selectively displayed on said general display area,
36 depicts essential information representing system status
37 about at least said first and second cabin systems, and
38 allows the user to select a desired one of said first and
39 second system menus from said main menu.

1 2. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said touch input keys respectively comprise respective
3 touch input areas of said touch sensitive surface input
4 arrangement, and said system or function identifying
5 symbols are displayed on said display screen at locations
6 respectively in registration with said touch input areas of
7 said touch sensitive surface input arrangement.

1 3. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said touch input keys are permanent physical input keys
3 separate and distinct from said touch sensitive surface
4 input arrangement.

1 4. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a computer connected to said user interface
3 panel, and software to be executed in said computer for
4 generating and displaying at least said first system menu
5 and said second system menu on said general display area,
6 and for evaluating and processing touch input signals from
7 said touch sensitive surface input arrangement to select
8 and control said operating functions of said first and
9 second cabin systems.

Claim 5 (canceled).

1 6. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said basic layout further includes a header line which
3 displays an identification of a respective active one of
4 said menus that is being displayed on said general display
5 area.

1 7. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said touch input keys of said basic layout are maintained
3 available and accessible to the user continuously and
4 regardless which of said menus is being displayed on said
5 general display area.

1 8. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said user interface panel comprises a versatile adaptable
3 touch sensitive screen that incorporates both said display
4 screen and said touch sensitive surface input arrangement.

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1 9. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said first cabin system is said cabin audio system, said
3 first system menu is a cabin audio system menu, and said
4 cabin audio system menu includes display indicators and
5 input buttons for the user to monitor, select and play
6 pre-recorded announcements of said cabin audio system and
7 to monitor and adjust an on-board music channel of said
8 cabin audio system.

1 10. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein
2 said display indicators and said input buttons include a
3 numerical display field and an input keypad, which enable
4 the user to input a corresponding number to select a
5 desired one of the pre-recorded announcements.

1 11. (original) The arrangement according to claim 9, wherein
2 said display indicators and said input buttons allow all of
3 the pre-recorded announcements to be queued and played in
4 sequence.

1 12. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said first cabin system is said cabin lighting system, said
3 first system menu is a cabin lighting system menu, and said
4 cabin lighting system menu includes display indicators and
5 input buttons for the user to monitor, select and adjust
6 said cabin lighting system respectively individually for
7 various different areas in an aircraft cabin.

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1 13. (original) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein
2 said display indicators and input buttons provide three
3 selectable brightness levels of illumination by said cabin
4 lighting system in cabin entry zones in an aircraft cabin.

1 14. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein
2 said first cabin system is said aircraft door monitoring
3 system, said first system menu is a door monitoring system
4 menu, and said door monitoring system menu includes display
5 indicators that represent each door and hatch of the
6 aircraft and indicate a respective status thereof.

1 15. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a status menu that can be selectively displayed
3 on said general display area, whereby said status menu
4 displays status information respectively regarding all of
5 said cabin systems.

1 16. (original) The arrangement according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a programming menu that can be selectively
3 displayed on said general display area, whereby said
4 programming menu includes display indicators and input
5 buttons to allow the user to program functions of a
6 plurality of said cabin systems.

1 17. (original) A method of operating the arrangement according
2 to claim 5, comprising the following steps carried out by
3 a user:

4 a) touching a respective one of said touch input keys
5 labeled with a respective one of said system
6 identifying symbols associated with a desired one of
7 said system menus or said main menu to call up and
8 display said desired one of said system menus or said
9 main menu on said general display area;

10 b) if said main menu is displayed on said general display
11 area, then touching a portion of said main menu
12 corresponding to a desired one of said system menus on
13 said touch sensitive surface input arrangement
14 superimposed over said general display area;

15 c) when said desired one of said system menus is
16 displayed on said general display area, touching a
17 portion of said desired one of said system menus
18 corresponding to a desired one of said operating
19 functions on said touch sensitive surface input
20 arrangement superimposed over said general display
21 area so as to select and adjust said desired one of
22 said operating functions of a desired one of said
23 cabin systems associated with said desired one of said
24 system menus.

1 18. (new) An aircraft cabin systems controller that enables a
2 user to monitor status information and to control functions
3 of plural cabin systems in an aircraft cabin, said cabin

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4 systems being selected from a group consisting of a cabin
5 information system, a cabin audio system, a cabin video
6 system, a cabin lighting system, a cabin air conditioning
7 system, a cabin smoke detector system, an aircraft door
8 monitoring system, and an aircraft water system, wherein
9 said aircraft cabin systems controller comprises:

10 a user interface panel that includes a display screen
11 and a touch sensitive surface input arrangement
12 superimposed over at least a portion of said display
13 screen;

14 a computer-generated first system display that is
15 selectively displayed on said display screen, and that
16 shows first status information and first operating
17 functions of a first one of said cabin systems and allows
18 the user to select and control said first operating
19 functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input
20 arrangement superimposed on said first system display on
21 said display screen;

22 a computer-generated second system display that is
23 selectively displayed on said display screen, and that
24 shows second status information and second operating
25 functions of a second one of said cabin systems and allows
26 the user to select and control said second operating
27 functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input
28 arrangement superimposed on said second system display on
29 said display screen; and

30 a computer-generated main cabin status display that is
31 selectively displayed on said display screen, and that

32 shows overview status information regarding said first
33 cabin system and said second cabin system, and that allows
34 the user, by touching said touch sensitive surface input
35 arrangement superimposed on said main cabin status display
36 on said display screen, to select a desired one of said
37 first and second system displays to be selectively
38 displayed on said display screen.

1 19. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 18, wherein:

3 said controller further comprises a computer-generated
4 third system display that is selectively displayed on said
5 display screen, and that shows third status information and
6 third operating functions of a third one of said cabin
7 systems and allows the user to select and control said
8 third operating functions by touching said touch sensitive
9 surface input arrangement superimposed on said third system
10 display on said display screen; and

11 said main cabin status display further shows said
12 overview status information further regarding said third
13 cabin system, and further allows the user to select said
14 desired one of said system displays among said first,
15 second and third system displays.

1 20. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 19, wherein:

3 said controller further comprises a computer-generated
4 fourth system display that is selectively displayed on said

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display screen, and that shows fourth status information and fourth operating functions of a fourth one of said cabin systems and allows the user to select and control said fourth operating functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on said fourth system display on said display screen; and

said main cabin status display further shows said overview status information further regarding said fourth cabin system, and further allows the user to select said desired one of said system displays among said first, second, third and fourth system displays.

21. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 18, wherein said main cabin status display includes:

a first graphical aircraft symbol schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, wherein said overview status information regarding said first cabin system is displayed on and/or adjacent to said first graphical aircraft symbol; and

a second graphical aircraft symbol schematically representing a plan view of the aircraft cabin, wherein said overview status information regarding said second cabin system is displayed on and/or adjacent to said second graphical aircraft symbol.

22. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to claim 21, wherein said touch sensitive surface input arrangement includes:

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4 a first touch sensitive area that is superimposed on
5 said first graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said
6 first system display to allow the user to select said first
7 system display as said desired one of said system displays
8 by touching said first touch sensitive area; and

9 a second touch sensitive area that is superimposed on
10 said second graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to said
11 second system display to allow the user to select said
12 second system display as said desired one of said system
13 displays by touching said second touch sensitive area

1 23. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 18, wherein said user interface panel further
3 includes plural touch buttons that are respectively
4 individually linked to respective ones of said system
5 displays to allow the user to select said desired one of
6 said system displays by touching a respective one of said
7 touch buttons that is linked to said desired one of said
8 system displays.

1 24. (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 23, wherein all of said plural touch buttons are
3 always available on said user interface panel when any one
4 of said first system display, said second system display,
5 and said main cabin status display is displayed on said
6 display screen.

1 **25.** (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 24, wherein said touch buttons comprise respective
3 system identifying symbols that respectively identify
4 respective ones of said system displays and that are
5 displayed on said display screen, and respective touch
6 sensitive areas of said touch sensitive surface input
7 arrangement respectively superimposed on said system
8 identifying symbols on said display screen.

1 **26.** (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 24, wherein said touch buttons respectively comprise
3 permanent physical input keys that are separate and
4 distinct from said touch sensitive surface input
5 arrangement and that are incorporated into said user
6 interface panel.

1 **27.** (new) An aircraft cabin systems controller that enables a
2 user to monitor status information and to control functions
3 of plural cabin systems in an aircraft cabin, said cabin
4 systems being selected from a cabin information system, a
5 cabin audio system, a cabin video system, a cabin lighting
6 system, a cabin air conditioning system, a cabin smoke
7 detector system, an aircraft door monitoring system, and an
8 aircraft water system, wherein said aircraft cabin systems
9 controller comprises:

10 a user interface panel that includes a display screen
11 and a touch sensitive surface input arrangement

12 superimposed over at least a portion of said display
13 screen;

14 a computer-generated first system display that is
15 selectively displayed on said display screen, and that
16 shows first status information and first operating
17 functions of a first one of said cabin systems and allows
18 the user to select and control said first operating
19 functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input
20 arrangement superimposed on said first system display on
21 said display screen;

22 a computer-generated second system display that is
23 selectively displayed on said display screen, and that
24 shows second status information and second operating
25 functions of a second one of said cabin systems and allows
26 the user to select and control said second operating
27 functions by touching said touch sensitive surface input
28 arrangement superimposed on said second system display on
29 said display screen; and

30 a computer-generated main cabin display that is
31 selectively displayed on said display screen and that
32 includes first and second graphical aircraft symbols
33 respectively schematically representing a plan view of the
34 aircraft cabin, and that allows the user, by touching said
35 touch sensitive surface input arrangement superimposed on
36 said main cabin display on said display screen, to select
37 a desired one of said first and second system displays to
38 be selectively displayed on said display screen;

39 wherein:

40 said touch sensitive surface input arrangement
41 includes a first touch sensitive area that is superimposed
42 on said first graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to
43 said first system display to allow the user to select said
44 first system display as said desired one of said system
45 displays by touching said first touch sensitive area;

46 said touch sensitive surface input arrangement further
47 includes a second touch sensitive area that is superimposed
48 on said second graphical aircraft symbol and is linked to
49 said second system display to allow the user to select said
50 second system display as said desired one of said system
51 displays by touching said second touch sensitive area; and

52 said user interface panel further has incorporated
53 therein plural touch buttons that are respectively
54 individually linked to respective ones of said system
55 displays to allow the user additionally to select said
56 desired one of said system displays by touching a
57 respective one of said touch buttons that is linked to said
58 desired one of said system displays.

1 **28.** (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 27, wherein all of said plural touch buttons are
3 always available on said user interface panel when any one
4 of said first system display, said second system display,
5 and said main cabin display is displayed on said display
6 screen.

1 **29.** (new) The aircraft cabin systems controller according to
2 claim 28, wherein said touch buttons comprise respective
3 system identifying symbols that respectively identify
4 respective ones of said system displays and that are
5 displayed on said display screen, and respective touch
6 sensitive areas of said touch sensitive surface input
7 arrangement respectively superimposed on said system
8 identifying symbols on said display screen.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

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